

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method of encoding an audio stream includes generation of a distortion threshold templates database that is accessible by a perceptual audio encoder. The audio encoder utilizes the threshold templates to operate a compression algorithm, obviating the need to

5 implement a psycho-acoustic model to generate a distortion threshold for each compression operation. A similar templates database may be used in a transcoding operation, again bypassing a psycho-acoustic modeling operation and promoting system efficiency.